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BLOFIELD AND FLEGG RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR

1946.

Council Offices,

ACLE.

October, 1947.

To the Chairman
and Members of the Blofield and Flegg Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have the honour to present our Annual Report for the year nineteen hundred and forty-six.

The cessation of hostilities resulted in a movement of population, especially during the summer months, when people were attracted to the Coastal Area, the Rivers and Broads.

This movement of people is a factor of considerable importance when considering the vital statistics contained in this report. Persons of all ages and from all walks of life gather together to enjoy the amenities of the district. This influx of visitors creates problems of a seasonal character and add to the risks of the spread of infectious diseases.

Attention is drawn to problems of the holiday bungalow referred to in the section on Housing.

The district remains chiefly agricultural in character.

Careful consideration of the facts and figures contained in this report show that the health of the district has been maintained on a level comparable with other years.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	74,774
Population (estimated resident)	28,870
Number of premises	11,685
Rateable value (28th October, 1946)	£121,663
Product of a penny rate	£491 [illegible] 3d.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Live births:-			
Legitimate	538	263	275
Illegitimate	34	15	19
Totals	572	278	294

Birth rate per 1000 of the estimated population: 19.81

Stillbirths:-	23	14	9

Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births: 38.66

Deaths:-	293	159	134

Death rate per 1000 of the estimated population: 10.15

Deaths from puerperal causes:-

Puerperal sepsis	Nil.
Other maternal causes	2

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:-

Legitimate	17	10	7
Illegitimate	2	2	-
Totals	19	12	7

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	44
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	4
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	1

The births in 1946 were 278 Males and 294 Females, a total of 572, against a total of 510 births in the year 1945, making an increase of 62 births.

The birthrate in 1946 was 19.81 as against 18.62 in the year 1945. The birthrate for England and Wales for 1946 was 19.1.

The deaths during the year were less in number and the death-rate of 10.15 compares favourably with that of 11.47 for the year 1945 and 11.5 deathrate per thousand of population for England and Wales.

The Infant Mortality rate still remains comparatively low and with a total of 19 deaths of children under one year of age shows a decrease of four on last year's figure.

The following table gives the causes of death in 1946:-
(Figures given by Registrar-General).

Causes of death.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	1	-	1
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory system	4	3	7
Other forms of Tuberculosis	4	-	4
Syphilitic diseases.	1	2	3
Measles	-	-	-
Cancer of buc: cav: & oesoph: (M) uterus (F)	2	-	2
Cancer of stomach & duodenum	5	2	7
Cancer of breast	-	3	3
Cancer of all other sites	16	16	32
Diabetes	1	1	2
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	7	22	29
Heart diseases	56	32	88
Other diseases of circ. system	6	5	11
Bronchitis	2	5	7
Pneumonia	2	3	5
Other resp: dis:	-	1	1
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	2	3
Diarrhoea under 2 years	3	1	4
Other digestive diseases	5	1	6
Nephritis	3	1	4
Other maternal causes	-	2	2
Premature birth	2	4	6
Con: mal: birth inj: infant dis:	6	2	8
Suicide	1	2	3
Road traffic accidents	4	1	5
Other violent causes	2	3	5
All other causes	25	20	45
Totals	159	134	293

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Analysis of Total Cases of Infectious Diseases Notified in Age Groups.

Disease.	Under 1 yr.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & over	Totals 1946.	Totals 1945.
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	1	-	-	4	2
Scarlet Fever	-	-	1	1	4	13	6	1	3	3	-	-	32	54
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	4	4	11	22
Pneumonia	4	1	-	-	5	6	2	-	4	5	7	11	45	21
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	3
Cerebro-Spinal F.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	1	7	3	16	21
Measles	5	23	24	34	24	156	35	10	7	4	-	-	322	295
Whooping Cough	10	16	25	20	15	42	4	1	1	2	4	-	140	43
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	5
Ophthalmia Neon.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Jaundice	-	-	-	-	2	3	4	14	15	1	3	2	44	61
Hepatitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	4	-
Malaria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Totals	20	40	50	55	50	221	53	32	36	21	26	20	624	530

No. of cases of Scabies coming to the notice of the Department:- 71 109

There were 4 cases of Diphtheria and 11 cases of Scarlet Fever moved to the Isolation Hospital.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Efforts have been made during the year under review to continue the immunisation of children under fifteen years of age.

These efforts have included arrangement of sessions at the various schools and injections given by private doctors both at the surgery and in the home of the child.

It is estimated that 73.31% of school-children and 34.77% of children under five have been immunised.

Recognition should be given to the fact that only four cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year, and in this and the last year together, the notifications total six.

During the year 1946, there were 214 children immunised by private doctors and 133 immunised at sessions held at schools.

First injections during the year were given to 312 children whilst the second injection would be undertaken during 1947.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table gives an analysis of cases of tuberculosis notified during 1946.

Age Periods.	Notifications.					
	Pulmonary.			Non-pulmonary.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Under 1 year.	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5 years.	-	-	-	2	2	4
5 - 15 years.	1	-	1	1	4	5
15 - 25 years.	5	3	8	-	-	-
25 - 35 years.	4	2	6	-	1	1
35 - 45 years.	2	4	6	1	1	2
45 - 55 years.	1	1	2	-	-	-
55 - 65 years.	4	1	5	-	-	-
65 and over.	1	-	1	-	-	-
Totals	18	11	29	4	8	12

There were 11 deaths due to tuberculosis. This total is made up of 4 Male pulmonary, 3 Female pulmonary and 4 Male non-pulmonary.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Of the thirty-three parishes comprising the Rural District, eight parishes have a mains supply available and two parishes have part of the parish supplied with mains water.

There have been no complaints of shortage of water. The quality of the water is uncertain due to absence of sewerage schemes in all but two of the parishes in the district.

During the year under review, a scheme was prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Health which would provide a mains supply of water in all but one of the parishes in the district.

It is a matter for regret that no progress is being made to make this proposal a reality.

This means that approximately seven thousand premises in the district are without a mains water supply in or on the premises concerned and included in this number is approximately five hundred premises whose inhabitants go to a standpipe.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

During the year under review, consulting engineers were engaged to submit in general principle sewerage schemes for the parishes of Martham, Ormesby St. Margaret-with-Scratby, Hemsby, Winterton, Acle, Blofield and Brundall. The outline of such schemes were considered by the Rural Council and later submitted to the County Council for consideration.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The extensions of public cleansing schemes to cover the greater part of the District is one that should receive the consideration of the Council as the present methods of disposal of refuse and night-soil in a number of parishes are in many cases possible sources of danger to public health, particularly where deposits take place near shallow drinking wells.

RAT INFESTATION.

Two rat-catchers were appointed early in the year and as a result 489 premises have been treated with the bodies of 644 rats recovered.

The methods of the Ministry of Food have been adopted, thus it is considered that many more rats have been poisoned even though the bodies have not been recovered.

HOUSING.

One important item in the housing of the district is th holiday bungalow problem.

Along the coast are hundreds of temporary dwellings of the week-end type.

Due to the housing situation generally, these temporary dwellings are being used either as permanent houses all the year round or as weekly furnished lets in the summer months.

Absence of proper roads and path approaches, absence of

water supply and drainage and pail closet sanitation coupled with absence of control on the number of persons occupying these bungalows on weekly lets present problems which do not appear to be covered by present legislation.

There is a real need for new legislation to give adequate control to the dwellings let as furnished accommodation on weekly terms.

Shortage of labour and materials have created many difficulties in the repair of working class dwellings.

The great problem of bringing a large proportion of dwellings up to a satisfactory standard is one that calls for serious consideration.

The need for new houses to provide for families inadequately housed is known to all Members of the Council. All types of houses are needed to supply homes and the Council are making every effort to meet the needs of the residents in the various parishes.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Supervision of food depots and shops have continued throughout the year. Examination of meat and other foods has entailed many visits to premises, a quantity of meat, tins of foodstuffs, in addition to a variety of other foodstuffs were examined, resulting in the condemnation of those affected with disease, or otherwise unwholesome.

The duties connected with the protection of the public food supply are of the greatest importance, and it is satisfactory to both the Council and their Officers that the protection of the health of the population of the District has been maintained by the efforts of those Officers engaged in this valuable public service.

GENERAL.

The general standard of the health of the District has been maintained in spite of the movement of population throughout the year; the Council's Officers have contributed in no small manner to this by their prompt action and vigilance.

Cases of Infectious Disease were removed to the County Isolation Hospital when necessary and disinfection of premises carried out as required.

In conclusion we would stress the need for the extension of the water and sewerage schemes and would point out that the maximum benefit would result if the water, sewerage and housing schemes could proceed simultaneously.

In a Rural District there is always the need that consideration be given to the development of the housing scheme being such as to enable these schemes to fit into the general pattern of community life in the district.

We are,

Mr. Chairman,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servants,

J. D. MCKELVIE,

T. W. E. ROYDEN,

Medical Officers of Health.